



THE LEGISLATURE
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NEWS RELEASE

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Caregivers Honored by Legislature

March 14th is Caregiver's Day at Hawaii State Capitol

Honolulu. The Hawaii State Legislature will pay a special tribute to those who serve as caregivers on Tuesday, March 14th at the State Capitol. As part of Caregiver's Day, an event will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Rotunda of the state capitol building showcasing caregivers and care-related programs on display. There will also be free, live entertainment.

"Caregivers, often at great personal sacrifice, devote their lives to taking care of those who can not care for themselves," said Rep. Alex Sonson, Chair of the House Committee on Human Services. "This day is dedicated to encourage the public, and our legislative colleagues, to gain a greater understanding of caregivers and the mission they serve for our people."

House Concurrent Resolution 41, currently before the state legislature, recognizes the month of March as Caregiver's Month in Hawaii.

Care homes benefit the state and provide significant cost savings to clients who would ordinarily be housed in nursing homes. For example:

- Care home operators save the State of Hawaii approximately \$84 million per year, or \$7 million per month.
- For a Medicaid patient, the cost for a nursing home is \$4,000 per month, compared to \$2,000 per month for a care home.
- For a private pay patient, the cost for a nursing home is between \$6,000 and \$12,000 per month, compared to \$2,500 per month for a care home.

(more)

Consider the following statistics from the National Family Caregivers Association, 2003:

- Nationwide, more than 50 million people, provide care for a chronically ill, disabled or aged family member or friend during any given year.
- Hawaii has approximately 120,000 caregivers, who provide over 128 million hours of caregiving, at an economic value of \$1,128,000,000.
- Caregiving is no longer predominantly a women's issue. Men now make up 44% of the caregiving population.
- Caregivers providing care for a family member over the age of 50 routinely underestimate the length of time they will spend as caregivers - only 46% expected to be caregivers longer than two years. In fact the average length of time spent on caregiving was about eight years, with approximately one third of respondents providing care for 10 years or more.

"We need to extend our heartfelt thanks to the thousands of family members, neighbors, friends and paid caregivers in Hawaii who, through their compassion and love, make such a positive difference in the quality of life for others," said Senator Suzanne Chun Oakland. "We honor you on Caregivers Day at the Capitol."

Caregiver's Day is sponsored by AARP, Case Management Council, Catholic Charities Hawaii, County Offices on Aging, Department of Health, Hawaii Caregivers Coalition, Hawaii Coalition of Care Home Administrators, Hawaii Long Term Care Association, Hawaii State Legislature's Filipino Caucus, Hawaii State Legislature's Kupuna Caucus, Hawaii Waivers Provider Association, Hawaiian Islands Hospice Organization, Heath Care Association of Hawaii, Kokua Mau, and Policy Advisory Board for Elder Affairs.

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